Annual Report on the Working of the Backward Class Department 1938-39

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE BACKWARD CLASS DEPARTMENT FOR 1938-39.

No. B.C. 2481 OF 1939.

Poona, 18th July 1939.

From

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Backward Class Officer,
Bombay Province, Poona;

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
General Department, Bombay.

Subject.—Report on the Working of the Backward Class Department for the year 1938-39.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the Administration Report on the work of the Backward Class branch of this Department, for the year ending 31st March 1939.

Charge.

2. The charge of the Backward Class Officer was held by Mr. C. S. Devadhar, B.A., up to 23rd of March 1939 and by me during the remainder of the year.

The charge of the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Northern Circle, Ahmedabad, was held by Mr. A. Noronha, B.A., throughout the year. The charge of the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Central Circle, Bijapur, was held by Mr. G. B. Shitole, during the whole year. In addition to his own, Mr. G. B. Shitole held charge of the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Southern Circle, Dharwar, up to 24th of June 1938 and thereafter the charge was held by Mr. P. H. Eden, during the remaining period of the year.

Classification of Backward Classes.

3. The list of Backward Classes classified as "Scheduled Castes", "Aboriginal and Hill Tribes" and "Other Backward Classes" issued under Government Resolution, General Department, No. 9330, dated the 3rd December 1934, remained in force during the year. A Sub-Committee of the Backward Class Board, consisting of a panel of five members of the Board, has been constituted for the revision of the Schedules of Backward Classes. It will submit its recommendations to Government, regarding alterations, that may be deemed necessary in the existing schedules of Backward Classes,

after consideration of the present social, economic and educational status of the communities concerned.

Primary education of Scheduled Castes.

4. The following table gives information relating to the number of Backward Class pupils, teachers, etc., as required by paragraph 23 of the Report of the Depressed Classes and Aboriginal Tribes Committee of 1930 :—

Pupils.	1937-38.	1938-39.
(*i*) Scheduled Castes—		
(*a*) Attending common schools	60,928	73,150
(*b*) Attending special schools	13,649	13,021
Total ...	74,577	86,171
(*ii*) Aboriginal and Hill Tribes	30,366	49,763
(*iii*) Other Backward Classes	42,011	46,936
Total, Backward Classes ...	146,954	182,870

Teachers (in Government, District Local Board and Municipal Primary School) :—

—		1937-38.	1938-39.
Scheduled Castes	Men ...	1,004	1,098
	Women ...	107	107
	Total ...	1,111	1,205
Aboriginal and Hill Tribes ...	Men ...	342	385
	Women ...	22	21
	Total ...	364	406
Other Backward Classes ...	Men ...	409	475
	Women ...	48	66
	Total ...	457	541
Total, Backward Classes ...	Men ...	1,755	1,958
	Women ...	177	194
	Total ...	1,932	2,152

(i) The above figures show that the progress made in this direction is encouraging. The number of Scheduled Caste children attending common schools during the year 1938-39 has increased by 12,222 and the number of Scheduled caste children attending separate schools has fallen by 649. This fall is mainly due to the closure of some of the separate schools maintained for them and to the fact that in the latter part of the year 1937-38 some agitation against the admission of Scheduled Caste children into the common schools was carried on in some of the districts, particularly in the Northern Division. There has been a rise by 35,916 in the total number of Backward Class pupils under instruction. There has also been a rise in the number of Scheduled Caste, Aboriginal and Hill Tribes, and other Backward Class teachers in schools.

(ii) As already observed last year progress in this direction can well be accelerated in view of the amendment effected in the Primary Education Act, whereby the supervision of the Primary Schools has been taken over by Government.

Since Government are bent upon eradicating untouchability and have been adopting adequate measures with a view to see that the Scheduled Caste people are not subjected to any discrimination particularly in educational institutions, opposition of caste Hindus to the admission of Harijan children to common schools has been slackening palpably.

(iii) The six night schools run by the Backward Class District Committee, Sholapur, for imparting adult education to the Scheduled Classes, continued to work efficiently during the year under report.

Differential treatment of Scheduled Class children in schools.

5. (1) Government have issued explicit orders that no discrimination should be observed in regard to admission and common seating of Scheduled Class children in common schools. It is reported by the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Southern Circle, Dharwar, that no complaints regarding differential treatment to the Scheduled Class children in common schools were received by him during the year under report. In some parts of Gujarat, however, cases of opposition of the Advanced Classes to the enforcement of Government orders with regard to admission and seating of Scheduled Caste children in common schools appear to be noticeably more than in other parts of the Province where this prejudice is fast dying out. I quote below a few of the typical cases in Gujarat that have been brought to the notice of this Department.

(*a*) At Matar, district Kaira, on the closure of the separate Local Board School, the Scheduled Class children were admitted to the Local Board Common school of the village. The caste Hindus protested and withdrew their children from the school, which resulted in the decrease in attendance of the school children.

The Scheduled Caste people were socially boycotted and harassed by the caste Hindus with a view that they may stop sending their children to the school, but they calmly faced all the difficulties and continued to send their children to the school. Thereupon the Caste Hindus opened a private school for their children. The Assistant Backward Class Officer, Northern Circle, Ahmedabad, visited the village several times, along with the workers of the Harijan Sevak Sangh, and the Caste Hindus were persuaded, in vain, to give up their opposition. The situation, however, is reported to be improving, since the Caste Hindu children are now joining the school in increasing numbers and sit with the Harijan pupils without any distinction.

(*b*) At Pamol, taluka Borsad, district Kaira, on the Scheduled Class children being admitted to the Local Board School, the other caste Hindus stopped sending their children to the school and the Scheduled Class people were subjected to a social boycott. The Assistant Backward Class Officer, Northern Circle, Ahmedabad, visited the village accompanied by the Administrative Officer, District School Board, Nadiad. The Caste Hindus were entreated to give up their attitude, but they did not listen to their advice ; subsequently the school was closed after a notice to that effect was served on the Caste Hindus. Later on however, the school was re-opened, on the leaders of the Caste Hindus agreeing that they would not object to the Scheduled Class children sitting along with their children in school. After the school was re-opened, not a single Scheduled Class child attended the school though there were 22 Scheduled Class children on roll, mainly due to the threat of harassment and social boycott held out to them by Caste Hindus. Consequently the school was shifted to the Scheduled Class locality to facilitate the Scheduled Class children to attend the school ; but the Scheduled Caste people had such a dread of social boycott that, although the school was situated in their own locality, they hesitated to send their children to it. As there was practically no attendance in the school, a notice to close the school was again given and the school was subsequently closed. It is reported now that the Caste Hindus have opened a private school for their children.

(*c*) At Sunav in Borsad Taluka of the Kaira District, four Scheduled Caste children were admitted to the Local Board School. They attended the school for a few days only and then stopped attending it due to the threats of social boycott of the Caste Hindus. The Assistant Backward Class Officer, Northern Circle, visited Sunav and persuaded the Caste Hindu people to allow the Scheduled Class children to attend the school. The Scheduled Classes were also advised to send their children to the school. This had the desired effect and the children of the Scheduled Classes are now attending the school without any discrimination being observed.

In addition, there were a few more similar cases of differential treatment in Gujarat, but the matter was set right in each case by the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Northern Circle, Ahmedabad, by making proper representations.

A new rule has since been added to the Bombay Primary Education Rules, 1924, published in Government Notification in the Educational Department, No. 2534, dated the 10th October 1924, and it runs as follows:—

"No grant shall be paid to a local authority in respect of a school where admission is refused to any pupil on the ground of caste or community to which he or she belongs.

"If no pupils belonging to Scheduled Castes are actually attending a school it shall be deemed that admission is being refused to such pupils within the meaning of this rule, unless the School Board shows to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Instruction that no such pupils are residing within a distance of one mile from the school or adduce other satisfactory reasons for the absence of such pupils from the schools."

In view of this new rule regarding the withdrawal of grants from educational institutions refusing admission to the Scheduled Class children Government will now exercise better control over the actions of local authorities, and it is likely that there will very soon be a material improvement in the situation.

(2) In some places the schools are held in temples and the Scheduled Class people being imbued with superstitious ideas are sometimes averse to the idea of their children entering them and sitting along with other children. This, indeed, frustrates the very object of common seating arrangement in schools. As already observed in previous years, it is for local authorities to evince a keen interest in such matters and to remove as soon as practicable the schools held in temples to non-contentious buildings.

Secondary, Collegiate and Technical Education.

6. Exemption from payment of room rent in the hostels attached to Government Secondary schools continued to be granted to the Backward Class students who were certified to be poor by the Head Masters of the schools concerned.

According to Government orders the Backward Class girl students who were unable to pay fees were awarded free-studentships in Government Secondary schools.

The Backward Class students studying in Government Secondary schools were also invariably admitted free.

Free-studentships and scholarships granted last year to the Scheduled Class students studying in Government and non-Government Arts and Professional colleges in accordance with Government Resolution, Educational Department, No. 6374, dated the 26th November 1937, were continued to them during the current year. The Scheduled Class students who joined the colleges during the year were also awarded free-studentships and scholarships.

In addition to the scholarships awarded by the Educational Department, this Department grants monetary aid to deserving Backward Class students studying in Secondary schools and

Colleges by way of scholarships and in lump sums. The total amount utilized for the purpose during the year was Rs. 5,617 as against Rs. 2,930 expended last year. Lump sums are, in a majority of cases, sanctioned to indigent students of the Backward Classes studying in colleges to enable them to purchase the books required for the course and towards their examination fees. Such timely assistance in genuinely deserving cases is being appreciated much as it greatly helps the pupils in prosecuting their studies.

Government, with a view to promote education among the Backward Classes have, under their Educational Department Resolution No. 6646, dated the 16th November 1938, sanctioned a sum of Rs. 16,956 for additional sets of scholarships to Backward Classes (including the scheduled castes) in Secondary schools and colleges, and Rs. 13,000 for awarding free-studentships to Backward Class students in non-Government Arts and Professional Colleges.

As in last year, a sum of Rs. 6,000 was distributed during the year under report also amongst the Provincial Harijan Sevak Sanghs, for carrying on their educational activities amongst the Scheduled Classes. Similarly a sum of Rs. 3,000 was also distributed amongst (1) the Bhil Seva Mandal, Dohad, (2) the Dang Seva Mandal, Baglan, district Nasik, and (3) the Bhil Sudhara Samiti, Dhulia, for conducting their activities for the amelioration of the condition of the Aboriginal and Hill Tribes in the Partially Excluded Areas. A non-recurring grant of Rs. 400 was sanctioned to the Poona branch of the Depressed Class Mission Society of India for providing the requisite equipment to the Scheduled Class students studying in colleges in Poona. A sum of Rs. 50 was, in addition, granted to this institution to enable it to make the necessary provision for games for the Scheduled Class boarders.

Three of the Scheduled Class students who have gone abroad for study were also awarded scholarships to enable them to prosecute their studies.

These were some of the most important measures adopted by Government, during the year, to encourage the spread of literacy amongst the Scheduled Classes.

7. The Backward Class students receiving training in the various technical institutions are also awarded scholarships by this Department and the amount so distributed in scholarships during the year under report was Rs. 478. A monthly scholarship of Rs. 15 was continued to be paid to the Scheduled Class girl undergoing nursing course in the Civil Hospital at Belgaum. It is reported that she has completed her course now.

Admission of Backward Class teachers to Training Colleges.

8. (i) According to Government orders the percentage prescribed for admission of the Backward Class teachers to training institutions is 15 per cent. for all the Divisions.

(ii) Information in regard to the total admission of Backward Class teachers to the training institutions for the year 1938-39 obtained from the Educational Inspectors of the Divisions concerned is given in the sub-joined statement :—

Serial No.	Division.	Total number of teachers admitted in Training Colleges.	Total number of Backward Class teachers admitted.	Total number of Scheduled Class teachers admitted (included in the preceding column).
1	Northern Division ...	101	14 or 13·8 per cent.	6
2	Bombay ,, ...	41	8 or 19·5 ,,	5
3	Central ,, ...	442	78 or 17·6 ,,	53
4	Southern ,, ...	86	14 or 16·3 ,,	6

These figures will reveal that the position in all the Divisions except in the Northern Division is satisfactory. The position in the Bombay and Central divisions particularly is encouraging. The reasons for the fall in the prescribed percentage in the Northern Division is stated to be that two Scheduled Class teachers who were selected for admission did not join the College.

Backward Class Hostels.

9. The Government Backward Class hostel at Poona continued to function satisfactorily during the year. This hostel is meant for all Backward Class students. During the year under report 60 inmates were admitted to the hostel but two of them left it earlier due to private circumstances.

It is encouraging to note that the Government-subsidized hostels rapidly increased from 29 to 42 during the year. It may be recalled that the number of such hostels during the year 1936-37 was only 17 and during the past two years the Backward Class hostels that receive Government grants-in-aid on *per capita* basis have increased by 25. The percentage of Backward Class pupils to their total population was 4·2 during the year 1937-38. This shows that although the Backward Class communities are making steady progress they are still very backward in point of education. These hostels, in fact, act as an incentive to the Backward Class students since they provide them with free board and lodging. The Bhil Seva Mandal, Dohad, has been particularly evincing keen interest in the matter. It has opened three hostels in the Panch Mahals District, during the year, two for Bhil boys and one for Bhil girls. Information in respect of the Backward Class hostels managed by

private bodies which receive grants-in-aid from Provincial funds is given in the statement tabulated below :—

Serial No.	Name of the hostel.	Grants paid during the year 1938-39.
		Rs.
1	Karnatak Education Society's Hostel, Belgaum ...	579
2	Boarding House for Parwari Boys at Mahad... ...	280
3	Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Boarding, Satara	1,524
4	Bahishkrit Anath Vidyarthi Ashram, Sholapur ...	1,578
5	Depressed Class Mission Society's Hostel, Parel, Bombay.	578
6	Asprushyodharak Boarding House, Chalisgaon ...	654
7	Shri Chokamela Boarding House, Jalgaon	225
8	Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Boarding House, Nasik ...	486
9	Poona Seva Sadan Backward Class Hostel for Girls, Poona.	540
10	Depressed Class Education Society's Hostel, Thana ...	2,494
11	Depressed Class Education Society's Hostel, Dharwar ...	1,304
12	Ambedkar Anath Vidyarthi Ashram, Manmad ...	366
13	Union Boarding House, Poona	106
14	Kakkaya Samaj Boarding House, Nipani	419
15	Katkari Hostel at Wada (Thana)	750
16	Hostel for Tadvi Bhils at Yaval, East Khandesh ...	350
17	Rajendra Harijan Hostel, Dhulia	788
18	Harijan Sevashram, Ahmednagar	748
19	Harijan Vidyarthi Vasati Griha, Barsi	492
20	Harijan Hostel, Amalner, East Khandesh	300
21	Harijan Hostel, Jamner, East Khandesh	305
22	Harijan Ashram, Nipani	339
23	Harijan Students' Hostel, Bijapur	1,788
24	Harijan Vidyarthi Nilaya, Byadgi	754
25	Karnatak Harijan Balikashram, Hubli	710
26	Gandhi Ashram, Godhra	178
27	Gidwani Harijan Ashram, Kaira	646
28	Harijan Ashram, Viramgaon	389

Serial No.	Name of the hostel.	Grants paid during the year 1938-39.
		Rs.
29	Hostel for Harijan Girls, Sholapur	192
30	Somavansiya Harijan Hostel, Ahmednagar	300
31	Dongre Vanjari Boarding, Nasik	300
32	Harijan Boarding, Bhusawal	348
33	Vidyarthi Boarding, Khanapur (Satara)	396
34	Backward Class Hostel at Ahmedabad	3,222
35	Hindu Widows' Home Association, Hingne Budruk, Poona.	360
36	Rashtriya Bhil Ashram, Mirkhadi	645
37	Jitodi Bhil Ashram, Jhalod	610
38	Yaswatik Bhil Ashram, Jessawada	855
39	Vikasgriha Hostel for Girls, Ahmedabad	48
40	Devi Ramabai Ambedkar Vidyarthi Ashram, Dapoli ...	288
41	Asprushya Vidyarthi Vasati Griha, Satara	363
42	Hostel for Backward Classes at the Sardar High School, Belgaum.	252
43	Vanita Seva Samaj, Dharwar	.....
	Total ...	27,849

The figures mentioned above show that the amount expended for paying grants-in-aid to these hostels increased from Rs. 19,532 to Rs. 27,849 during the year.

Under the orders issued in Government Resolution, Educational Department, No. 6374, dated the 26th November 1937, the grant of Rs. 2 per mensem per inmate which the Backward Class hostels in the Province were receiving was increased to Rs. 3 per mensem. Since it was found to be still inadequate to enable these hostels to meet satisfactorily all the needs of the pupils residing in them the rate of grant was subsequently raised with effect from 1st of October 1938 as under :—

	In case of girls.	In case of boys.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. For pupils in the lowef Primary stage.	4 per mensem ...	3 per mensem.
2. For pupils in the upper Primary and lower Secondary stages.	5 per mensem ...	4 per mensem.
3. For pupils in the higher Secondary and Collegiate stages.	6 per mensem ...	5 per mensem.

The rate of Government grant in respect of Backward Class girls is one rupee in excess of what it is for boys, as the needs of the girls are more pressing and more costly than those of the boys. It is also difficult to attract girls to these hostels unless special amenities are provided for them.

As already pointed out in last year's report these hostels are open to all the Backward Class students.

In view of the most efficient and commendable work carried on by the Shree Shahu Chhatrapati Boarding House, Satara, a special additional grant of Rs. 1,200 was paid to it during the year under report as was done last year. It is run on non-sectional lines and is an exemplary institution. It is gratifying to observe the inmates of this hostel cooking cheerfully their own food in turn, thus both realising and raising the dignity of labour and self-help. The affairs of the hostel are well managed under the able guidance of Mr. Bhaurao P. Patil of Satara whose work in connection with the uplift of the Backward Classes is well known.

The management of the Backward Class hostel at Ahmedabad was taken over by the Gujarat Harijan Sevak Sangh, Sabarmati, and during the year, 53 Depressed Class inmates took advantage of the hostel. Its management is excellent and found to be entirely satisfactory.

With a view to encourage education amongst the Aboriginal and Hill Tribes in the Partially Excluded Areas Government desire that private institutions working for their uplift be encouraged to open more hostels catering for the needs of the pupils of these tribes by awarding adequate grants to such institutions.

Recruitment to Public Services.

10. The following orders issued by Government with regard to recruitment of Backward Classes to public services remained in force during the year :—

(*a*) 10 per cent. of all clerical vacancies under each appointing officer are to be filled in by Backward Classes (including Scheduled Classes) until Backward Class members occupy 5 per cent. of the total clerical establishment.

(*b*) 20 per cent. of talatis' vacancies are to be filled by members of Backward Classes (including Scheduled Classes) till a minimum of 10 per cent. of the total strength of talatis' establishment is reached.

(*c*) All vacancies of inferior servants are to be filled in by members of the Scheduled Classes until they occupy 10 per cent. of the inferior servants' establishments.

Steady progress is being maintained in carrying out the above orders. It is interesting to note the rapid progress made in the recruitment of Scheduled Class members as inferior servants during the period of four years. On the 31st March 1935, the percentage of Scheduled Class members as inferior servants was 6·6 per cent. in the Province, excluding the inferior servants in the Medical Department, whereas it was 11·7 on the 31st March 1938.

Government have, repeatedly, been issuing orders directing all Heads of Offices to accelerate recruitment of Backward Class members until the prescribed percentage is reached.

With a view to facilitate recruitment of Backward Classes in Government employ, registers of Backward Class candidates seeking for employment have continued to be maintained in the main office as well as in the offices of the Assistant Backward Class Officers. The lists of such candidates are supplied to recruiting officers on demand from them ; but as already observed last year, this does not absolve appointing officers from the responsibility of finding out themselves, suitable Backward Class candidates, either by local enquiry or by advertising the posts to be filled up in local newspapers, so as to reach their quotas. This Department helps the recruiting officers in finding out suitable Backward Class candidates by supplying lists of such candidates.

With a view to avoid errors, it is imperative that the appointing officers should strictly adhere to the schedules of Backward Classes printed as accompaniments to Government Resolution, General Department, No. 9330, dated the 3rd December 1934.

The sub-joined table shows information pertaining to the number of Backward Class candidates for whom positions were secured during the year, in various offices through this Department :—

Serial No.	Qualification.	Backward Classes other than S. Cs.	Scheduled Castes.	Total.
1	Graduates	2	.....	2
2	Matriculates	19	11	30
3	Primary School final	17	16	33
4	Non-qualified	2	32	34
	Total ...	40	59	99

This excludes a number of cases wherein Backward Class candidates secured employment by applying direct to the various appointing authorities.

Training of Backward Class candidates in office procedure.

11. During the year under report, 10 Backward Class candidates were entertained as stipendiary candidates in this Department on a monthly scholarship of Rs. 12 to train them in office routine ; of these 9 candidates have since been employed in various Government Departments and the remaining one joined college to

prosecute his studies further as he was awarded a scholarship by the Educational Department. I emphasise on the need of such sort of training as its value in preparing Backward Class candidates for entry into Government employ cannot be gainsaid. The fact that all Backward Class candidates who were engaged hitherto as stipendiary candidates in this Department invariably got employment vouches for its utility.

Experiments in housing sites.

12. In last year's report mention was made of housing sites for Backward Classes in the following places :—

Hubli and Gadag, Dharwar District, Nipani, Belgaum District and also at Sholapur :—

(*a*) *Hubli.*—With a view to provide housing sites to the Shikligars residing at Old Hubli, a piece of land measuring 8 acres out of Survey No. 70 of Ayodhya Hubli is proposed to be acquired at an approximate cost of Rs. 2,200 which Mr. F. G. Ghodke has agreed to meet as he evinces a keen interest in their uplift. The acquisition proceedings are in progress.

(*b*) *Gadag.*—A site measuring 4 acres of land in survey No. 178 of Gadag was proposed to be acquired, but as the site was found to be unsuitable for housing the Shikligars, another site for the purpose is being selected.

(*c*) *Nipani, district Belgaum.*—The site proposed to be acquired for the development of the Dhor locality has been approved by the Assistant Director of Public Health and the acquisition proceedings of the site are in progress.

(*d*) *Sholapur district.*—The land bearing F. P. 17 and 18 has been purchased by the Sholapur Municipality in 1936-37 out of the Town Planning Scheme No. 2. It has since been laid out into plots and provision for amenities is being made. The land has been exclusively reserved for Mangs.

Plots measuring 30′ × 20′ in the area known as Turat valley in the railway lines peth, are being sold to the Scheduled Class people at a concession rate of Rs. 125 per plot as sanctioned by the Commissioner, Central Division, Poona, and the amount is to be recovered in 5 years' time, by 10 six-monthly instalments.

A lay out of a plot at new Tirhegaon prepared by the Sholapur Municipal Borough was approved by Government and the plots numbering about 120 were sold to the existing Depressed Class tenants at a reasonable price.

(*e*) A site in survey No. 345 of Akluj, Sholapur district, has been laid out in plots measuring 33′ × 33′. 2/3rd of the site has been reserved for the Scheduled Classes and the remaining site for Criminal Tribes licensees. Sale of the plots in the site is in progress.

(*f*) The Municipality at Barsi has acquired land for Bhangis' chawls at a cost of Rs. 2,068. The site has been levelled and new roads have been constructed. The amount expended by the Municipality for the purpose was Rs. 968.

(*g*) *Bijapur district.*—A piece of land out of survey No. 976 of Bijapur city, with lay-out of 70 plots, has been reserved for providing housing sites for the Scheduled Classes; uptill now 10 plots have been assigned to the Scheduled Classes.

(*h*) *Dharwar district.*—The two sites at Dharwar acquired for housing the Backward Classes, one in City survey No. 17 for Ramoshis and another in City survey No. 131 for Mochis, have been fully developed; all the plots in these sites have been sold and houses there have now been built.

(*i*) Progress is made in disposing of the plots in the site of City survey No. 69, Military ground, Dharwar. Uptill now 72 out of 130 plots have been sold and on 19 plots houses have been built. It is pleasing to note that 2 members belonging to the Golla community have constructed fairly decent houses, since it was the past experience of the staff that Gollas, as a community were averse to the idea of building houses. As a matter of fact they are content in putting up in small and flimsy huts. A change in their attitude is now remarkably noticeable as they are now desirous of having permanent and well built houses.

(*j*) All the plots in City survey No. 35 of Hosayellapur have now been disposed of to members of the Backward Classes. On 18 of the plots, houses have been built.

(*k*) Houses have been constructed on all the plots in survey No. 42/5 of Krishnapur Hubli.

(*l*) *Kaira district.*—As stated in last year's report a piece of land measuring 2 acres and 9 gunthas at Kathalal, taluka Kapadvanj, has been acquired for housing the Scheduled Classes at a cost of Rs. 986. The site has been divided into 61 plots and as soon as Government approve of the lay-out of the plots, they will be assigned to the Scheduled Class people of the village.

13. Furthermore, steps are being taken to provide housing-sites for the Backward Classes in the following places :—

(*a*) *Dhandarphal Budruk, taluka Sangamner, district Ahmednagar.*—As the water of the Pravara river on its outer most edge enters the present "Maharwada" at Dhandarphal Budruk, Sangamner taluka, a piece of land measuring 2 acres and 12 gunthas in survey No. 411 of the village has been acquired at a cost of Rs. 1,840 for the housing of Mahars of the village.

(*b*) *Vadule Budruk, Shevgaon taluka, district Ahmednagar.*—Since the present Maharwada at Vadule Budruk is subjected to the floods of the Nami river a plot of land measuring 1 acre and 8 gunthas out of survey No. 154 of the village is acquired at a cost of Rs. 172-8-0 for the habitation of Mahars at Vadule Budruk.

(*c*) *Ainapar village, Bijapur taluka, district Bijapur.*—It is proposed to acquire a piece of land in survey No. 73 of Ainapur village, taluka Bijapur for providing housing sites for Lamanis. The Lamanis of the village have paid Rs. 230 as occupancy price of the land and the land acquisition proceedings are in progress.

(*d*) *Kudupali, taluka Hirekerur, district Dharwar.*—As Kudupali, Hirekerur taluka, it was found that there was much congestion in the Scheduled Class locality and consequently some of the Scheduled Class people had to stay in the "Hanuman" temple during the rains. With a view to provide adequate housing sites for the Scheduled Castes of the village a piece of land in the Gaothana, adjoining their locality, is proposed to be acquired at a cost of Rs. 120. Part of the amount has been voluntarily contributed by the Scheduled Class members of the village.

Lands for cultivation.

14. Applications from the Backward Class members for grant of lands for cultivation were forwarded to the Collectors of the districts concerned.

Government have issued orders that waste lands should invariably be granted to poor persons who own no lands but who live on agriculture. Government have also directed that, if the lands assigned, to the village inferior servants, as remuneration for their services, are found inadequate, for their maintenance, they should be given further waste lands, if possible.

Water facilities.

15. (1) As already stated in last year's report Government have in their Resolution, General Department, No. S. 92, dated the 14th September 1937, sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10,00,000 for adopting measures to improve the village water supply and this sum is provided to meet the estimated annual cost of the works proposed to be carried out in the various districts of each Division, during the triennium 1937-38 to 1939-40. Government have issued orders that while spending these allotments special attention to the needs of the Scheduled Classes should be paid. The Collectors of the districts are requested to see that a notice board, stating that the public well, tank, etc., are open for use to all castes and classes without restriction, is erected and permanently retained in respect of every work constructed out of this provision. The Collectors

have also been directed that if they apprehend that the existing disabilities of the Scheduled Classes in a particular village are likely to continue, either no money should be spent in that village from the grant allotted for the purpose or where the needs of the Scheduled Classes of that village are very pressing the money should be spent solely for providing special drinking water facilities for these classes.

(2) With a view to safeguard the fundamental civic rights of the Scheduled Classes all Government officers are enjoined to take necessary steps to secure the free enjoyment of the use of all public wells, tanks, etc., by the members of Scheduled Castes on the same terms as by persons belonging to other castes and communities; whenever an opportunity for securing to the members of the Scheduled Castes free and unhampered use of any public place arises, the officers concerned should not hesitate to employ means in their power to ensure to the Scheduled Classes the exercise of their legitimate rights.

(3) Government have also directed the Collectors to submit to them through the Commissioners of the Divisions concerned a report regarding (1) the number of public wells and tanks in their district, (2) the number of wells and tanks where notice boards have been put up and (3) the number of wells and tanks where no such notice boards are erected. This information has been called for by Government with a view to review the position in the matter.

Collectors are requested to ask the local authorities concerned to put up the necessary notice boards near all public wells and tanks and to see that they are actually put up within a reasonable period of time; cases in which the orders of Government are found to be disregarded are to be reported to Government.

Directions have also been issued to all Revenue Officers that whenever they are on tour they should see that the boards near wells and tanks are kept in a proper state of repairs and are not tampered with.

It is hoped that these orders will soon have the desired effect and the Scheduled Classes will have a free and unhampered use of all sources of public water supply in the Province.

As already observed last year, executive and legal actions alone are insufficient to achieve effective results; what is essentially needed in the matter is, enlightened public opinion and active support and co-operation of social workers and institutions working for the amelioration of the condition of these classes.

It is gratifying to note that there is a general awakening among the Scheduled Classes since they are now trying to assert their legitimate rights. There is also a marked change in the attitude of the Caste Hindus who are gradually realising the civic rights of the Scheduled Classes and consequently cases of differential treatment of the Scheduled Classes are now on the wane.

Miscellaneous Grievances of Backward Classes.

16. This Department disposes of a number of miscellaneous grievances and complaints of Backward Classes. Below are a few typical instances dealt with by this Department :—

(*i*) The houses of the Scheduled Class people at Padana, taluka Dhanduka, district Ahmedabad, were burnt by fire. As the Scheduled Classes of the village were extremely poor and could not afford to rebuild their houses, the Collector of Ahmedabad was moved in the matter and he sanctioned a grant of Rs. 200 out of the city relief fund. The amount was distributed to the 9 Scheduled Class persons for rebuilding their houses.

(*ii*) At Viramgaon Railway Station, a Scheduled Class person was abused and ill-treated by the owner of the Hindu Dining car in the Kathiawar Express, for drinking tea. The District Traffic Superintendent, Ahmedabad, was moved in the matter. The District Traffic Superintendent has informed this office that necessary action in the matter has been taken and its repetition is unlikely.

(*iii*) During the visit of the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Northern Circle, Ahmedabad, to Dohad, Panch Mahals District, it was noticed by him that there was an old step-well adjoining the sweepers' quarters. As it was open and unfenced it was unsafe for Scheduled Class children to play nearby. The Additional District Magistrate, Panch Mahals, was moved in the matter and it is learnt that the well has now been fenced.

(*iv*) On a complaint being received from the Scheduled Classes of Sajod, taluka Ankleshwar, district Broach and Panch Mahals, that their locality is not swept by the sweeper of the Village Panchayat the Chairman of the Village Panchayat was moved in the matter by the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Northern Circle, Ahmedabad, and it is now reported that the roads in the Scheduled Class locality are swept.

(*v*) A Scheduled Class man died of an accident while working in a local mill at Surat. The widow of the deceased approached the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Northern Circle, Ahmedabad, with a request to move the authorities concerned for payment of compensation to the dependents of the deceased. Local enquiries were made in the matter and on representation of her case to the proper authorities, a compensation of Rs. 810 has since been sanctioned to the widow of the deceased.

(*vi*) On a visit to Jhalod, Panch Mahals District, it was noticed by the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Northern Circle, Ahmedabad, that stone slabs were put at several places on the Government village tank prohibiting a particular part of the tank for the use of the Scheduled Classes. The Collector, Broach and Panch Mahals District, was moved in the matter and the stone slabs have been removed. The Scheduled Classes have now a free use of the tank.

(*vii*) At Byahatti, taluka Hubli, district Dharwar, there was a dispute between the villagers and the Scheduled Classes of the village regarding the payment of "Hala Aya" (remuneration for service rendered). A panchayat as required under section 18 of the Watan Act was held and the Mamlatdar of Hubli recovered part of the arrears of "Aya". The villagers, however, refused to pay the further arrears of "Aya" and the Scheduled Classes of the village were also subjected to a social boycott. On representing the matter to the Collector of Dharwar, local enquiries were instituted in the matter and after much advice the villagers raised the social boycott and agreed to pay the "Aya". Collections of "Aya" are reported to be in progress.

(*viii*) The Dhors of Dharwar were carrying on their tanning process in the tank situated in the vicinity of Syedapur. The vats remained submerged in water due to heavy rains and the skins were much damaged. The Dhors requested the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Southern Circle, Dharwar, to redress their grievance. Accordingly the President of the Dharwar Municipality was moved in the matter and he has promised that a suitable site for the Dhors will be made available.

(*ix*) On a surprise visit being paid to the Local Board girls' school at Nawapur, district West Khandesh, it was noticed that the Scheduled Class girls were seated separately away from other girls of the school. The Chairman, District School Board, West Khandesh, Dhulia, was requested to take necessary action in the matter. It is reported that the Scheduled Class girls of the school are now given equal treatment and the Head Mistress of the school has been warned and transferred elsewhere.

Non-Official Backward Class District Committees.

17. The non-official Backward Class District Committees at Sholapur, Bijapur, Dharwar and Belgaum continued to do good work during the year under report. The main functions of these Committees may be briefly summarized as below :—

(*a*) To provide information regarding the grievances and needs of the Backward Classes.

(*b*) To form a channel of communication between this Department and the Backward Classes.

(*c*) To give their opinion on questions referred to them by this Department.

(*d*) To carry on propaganda work as far as possible.

Since these Committees generally evince interest in the uplift of Backward Classes, they are found to be helpful to this Department.

In particular, the non-official Backward Class District Committees at Sholapur and Dharwar are functioning well; thanks to Rao Bahadur Dr. Mulay of Sholapur and

Mr. F. D. Ghodke of Hubli, for the valuable work done by them on these Committees. Mr. F. D. Ghodke of Hubli has been taking great interest in improving the condition of Gollas and Shikligars of Hubli.

General.

18. (*i*) Attempts are made to stop the evil practice of dedicating girls as Devadasis. As observed in last year's report this undesirable practice is in vogue particularly in the Belgaum, Dharwar and Bijapur districts of the Karnatak.

At Koliwad, taluka Hubli, there was a sensational case under the Devadasi Protection Act X of 1934. Seven persons (including a Brahmin "Pujari") were implicated. A member of the staff of the office of the Assistant Backward Class Officer, Southern Circle, Dharwar, was a complainant in the case. As it ended in a conviction of all the accused, it will certainly have a salutary effect on all offenders. In addition, two more cases in Bankapur Taluka, district Dharwar, were disposed of by the First Class Magistrate, Bankapur; of these, one ended in conviction and the other in discharge of the accused.

(*ii*) It was represented that some hotels refused to cater for members belonging to the Scheduled Classes. As it is essential that no such distinction should be observed in places of public entertainment, a new rule has since been inserted in the rules framed by the Commissioner of Police, for the City of Bombay, under section 22 (*1*) (*f*) of the City of Bombay Police Act, 1902, and by the District Magistrates, in the mofussil, under section 39-A of the Bombay District Police Act, 1890. It provides that no person, keeping a place of public entertainment under a license, shall refuse admission at such a place to any member of the Scheduled Castes, on the ground of his being a member of such caste. The licensing authority is empowered to cancel the license for a breach of this rule.

The addition of the new rule will, to a large extent, help in eradicating untouchability which is only a flagrant manifestation of the spirit of caste. Co-ordination of efforts of Government officials and non-officials is essentially required for the primary object of securing full civic rights for the untouchables. Much depends on the selfless social workers who carry on the propaganda, as they are the real legislators who supply the spirit and the soul, while the Government supplies only the body and the form.

(*iii*) The duties to be performed by the different classes of inferior village servants are now defined by Government. The list of duties to be performed by them is printed in regional languages and all talatis and patils are each supplied with a copy of the list. It is also hung prominently in every village Chavdi.

This indeed is a very important measure adopted by Government, as the various classes of village inferior servants will now know precisely the legitimate duties they are required to perform.

Orders have also been issued by Government, warning all Government servants against taking private services from the village inferior servants.

(*iv*) With a view to achieve more effective results in eradicating untouchability, Government contemplate moving in the Legislatures a Bill called "The Removal of Social Disabilities Bill".

(*v*) Government have appointed a Special Officer for the general uplift work in the Bhil area of the West Khandesh District. The Special Officer is to act as "Protector of the Bhils" and he will be a Liaison Officer between the Bhils and the various Government Departments. He holds charge of this special post for a period of two years.

The Backward Class Board.

19. The Backward Class Board constituted under Government Resolution, General Department, No. 8697, dated the 17th November 1937, continued to function during the year under report. As the Honourable the Prime Minister is the President of the Board many interesting subjects affecting the amelioration of the condition of Backward Classes are discussed by the Board. During the year, two sessions of the Backward Class Board were held. A few of the subjects discussed by the Board are detailed in Appendix I.

Finance.

20. The expenditure incurred by the Backward Class Department during the year under the budget head "47—Miscellaneous Departments—Miscellaneous—Backward Class Officer" was as follows :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) Pay of Establishment	1,524	10	0
(2) Contingencies	9,344	15	0
(3) Scholarships	5,617	6	10
(4) Grants-in-aid	39,106	0	0
	55,592	15	10
Additional amount transferred from "28—Jails, etc." on account of portion of the divisible expenditure of the Backward Class Officer and his establishment	33,500	0	0
	89,092	15	10

The amount of Rs. 33,500 mentioned above includes expenditure on account of travelling allowance for members of the Backward Class Board while the expenditure on contingencies includes the amount spent for housing sites for Backward Classes and also expenditure on food charges, etc., in the Government Backward Class Hostel, Poona.

In conclusion, I may add that Government is keenly interested in tackling all possible progressive measures conducive to the advancement of the Backward Classes in general and Scheduled Classes in particular.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

D. A. DHRUVA,

Backward Class Officer,
Bombay Province, Poona.

APPENDIX I.

Important subjects discussed by the Backward Class Board during the year 1938-39.

14th and 15th July 1938.

1. Awarding free-studentships to Backward Class students attending grant-in-aid Secondary schools in the Province.

2. In order to encourage female education amongst the Backward Classes, scholarships should be awarded to Backward Class girls reading in Primary and Secondary schools.

3. In villages, exaction of forced labour from the Scheduled Classes should be stopped and they should be paid adequately if they are made to render services of a private nature.

4. All the stalls, hostels, boarding and lodging houses, etc., maintained for the use of the public in the Province, should be compelled to have Government license wherein a condition should be inserted that they shall be open for all members of the public without any distinction of caste or creed.

5. Improving the lot of the scavengers in Municipalities by securing for them the rights of scheduled services, confinement holidays, grant of special uniforms while on duty and providing housing accommodation, etc.

6. Constitution of a Sub-Committee for considering the revision of the existing schedules of Backward Classes.

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7. With a view to facilitate military education amongst the Scheduled Classes some scholarships should be reserved for the Scheduled Class students desirous of pursuing military education in the Military Schools either at Poona or Nasik.

8. Untouchability should not be observed in any of the Government institutions and boardings in the Province.

9. Opening of a Backward Class hostel at Surat and to maintain it at Government expense.

10. Appointment of at least one Scheduled Class and qualified person in each district to the post of supervisor over Primary schools.

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